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Letter dated 10 December 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to refer to the letter dated 31 October 2001 (S/2001/1028) which the President of the Security Council addressed to me, whereby the Council welcomed my intention to respond positively to the request of the Government of Papua New Guinea for assistance from the United Nations in the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, especially in the area of weapons collection and disposal.

Following the signing of the Peace Agreement on 30 August 2001, the Government of Papua New Guinea has initiated steps to prepare the constitutional amendments called for in the Agreement. The Bougainville leaders have also worked on proposals to promote public awareness of the need for weapons collection and disposal. All parties have expressed their support for the continued efforts of the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville to facilitate the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

It would therefore be my intention to extend the mandate of the Office for 12 months to allow it to perform the functions set forth in the Agreement. I will keep the Council regularly informed of the progress in the work of that Office.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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